

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 5:00 PM

Via Webex Livestream

- PRESENT**
- | | |
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| Gurveen Dhaliwal, Chair | Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent |
| Dee Beattie, Vice-Chair | Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer |
| Anita Ansari, Trustee | Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent |
| Mary Lalji, Trustee | Leanne Sojka, Recording Secretary |
| Danielle Connelly, Trustee | Guests: |
| Maya Russell, Trustee | Members of the Public |
| | Susana Quan, Vice Principal, NWSS |
| | Murray McLeod, Principal, NWSS |
| | Stacy Brine, Teacher, NWSS |
| | Karen Klein, Director – International Education |
| | Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director – Instruction
Learning & Innovations |
| | Kristen Keighley-White, Communications Manager |
| | Pam Craven, District Principal |
| | Julie MacLellan, Reporter, New Westminster Record |
| | Kathleen Carlsen, DPAC Chair |
| | Sarah Wethered, President, NWTU |
| | Students |
- REGRETS**
- | | |
|---|--|
| Mark Gifford, Trustee | |
| Robert Weston, Executive - Director Human Resources | |

Committee Chair Russell recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the November 9, 2021 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATIONS

a. NWSS (Video)

NWSS Principal McLeod and NWSS Vice-Principal Quan shared a video on “Community, Collaboration, Connectedness, Communication and Celebration – Our Focus at New Westminster Secondary”

Chair Russell asked if there are ways that the Board can support the work that is being done. Principal McLeod suggested there would be future opportunities to meet monthly during upcoming advertising campaigns and presentations. He will keep the Board looped into the conversation, solicit input from them and confirmed the senior management team was fully supportive.

Trustees commended the students for coming forward and making the new NWSS “home” in such a short time.

Trustee Ansari joined the meeting at 5:13 pm

b. Student Voice - School Culture (Verbal)

Student Sam Killawee shared the results of a 20-question survey containing lockdown questions and “do you feel welcome”? Issues were raised such as lack of gender neutral change rooms and washrooms and harassment around homophobia. He noted that there must be a no-tolerance policy for those who refuse to use gender neutral language. Students have offered solutions such as an education campaign to help eliminate transphobia and homophobia.

Student Katharine Galloway shared that 84% of students felt the lockdown procedure doesn’t protect them in the event of an emergency. Of that number, 59% believe more blinds would better protect students. Students felt that having to leave classrooms to go to the one safe class (all 3 classes convene in one classroom) jeopardizes their safety.

3. COMMENT AND QUESTION PERIOD

With respect to the current lockdown procedures, Superintendent Hachlaf confirmed that funding was not an issue and that there is an ongoing conversation around the learning environment in the new school. Principal McLeod confirmed the visible learning environment - collaborative space between multiple classes was supported while also offering the private space.

For full comments and questions, please refer to the meeting video.

4. STUDENT VOICE

Followed presentations as 2.b.

5. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. International Program Update (K. Klein)

Director – International Education Klein presented slides, a moving slide and a video of numerous students' backgrounds, school challenges and positive school experiences.

b. Board Authority / Authorized (BAA) Courses (M. McRae-Stanger)

Director – Instruction, Learning & Innovations McRae-Stanger provided a brief yet succinct summary. A more fulsome description will be provided at the Regular Open Board Meeting on November 23, 2021.

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, January 18, 2021: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm - via Webex

Reminders:

Remembrance Day Ceremonies - November 11, 2021

Indigenous Focused Professional Development - November 12, 2021

BCSTA Trustee Academy - December 3 - 4, 2021

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6, 2021

Discover New Westminster Schools 2022 - January 11, 2022

Black Shirt Day - January 15, 2022

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm